



GUILFORD COUNTY 1776-1976
★ ★ AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

GREENSBORO/HIGH POINT
 GIBSONVILLE/JAMESTOWN

Mr. George Bush, Director
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Langley, Virginia 23665

Dear Mr. Bush:

I join Mr. Froelich and the Guilford County Bicentennial Commission in thanking you for accepting, through Mr. Preyer, our invitation to speak at the 195th Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on Sunday, March 14th, at 3:00 p.m.

I will send you the complete program of events as soon as I receive them from the printer. In the mean time, I would like to fill you in with a bit of background on the Battle and its meaning to the American Revolution and, naturally, to the people of our area.

You will remember that the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was waged on March 15th, 1781 between General Nathaniel Greene of Rhode Island and General Cornwallis. The American forces numbered no more than 6000 men, most of whom were raw recruits, backwoodsmen. The First Maryland Regiment and Delaware Continentals were the only seasoned troops and they numbered around 400 men. Observers stated that this was perhaps the fiercest battle witnessed during the war. Both sides fought savagely, with no quarter given by either side. Cornwallis, in a typically ruthless manner, decided to fire grape shot into the melee, feeling that his troops would be disciplined enough to withstand the barrage, and hoping the American troops would fall under it. This, indeed, is what happened. However, it was a pyrrhic victory for Lord Cornwallis. Though in theory, he was the victor over Greene, the Battle left his troops exhausted. His nearest food supply was 200 miles away in Wilmington. He could not send foraging troops into the countryside for they were constantly sniped upon. So, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was to the American cause in the south what Washington's retreat across the Jerseys and his victories at Trenton and Princeton were to the cause in the north. Historians across the country are now agreeing that the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was the turning point in the War for Independence as Cornwallis' troops went on to exhausted defeat five months later at Yorktown.

Guilford County now proudly commemorates the Battle in this bicentennial year with two days of activities, including the dedication of the new Visitor Center and remodeled grounds at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Mr. Gary Everhardt, Director of the National Park Service, will be with us on March 14th to briefly dedicate the Center. We ask that you speak to the Commemoration of the Battle itself, feeling free to develop your remarks along lines that make you most comfortable. The modern First Maryland Regiment will be encamped at the Battlefield for the entire week-end and will perform programs of music and musketry each after-

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THE POTTER HOUSE
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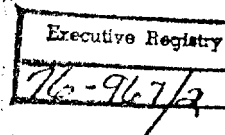
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 Mr. Charles T. Hagan, Jr.
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 Mrs. W. T. Powell
 Mrs. John Kellenberger
 Miss Phillis Lambeth
 Mr. McDaniel Lewis, ex-officio



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 AMERICAN REVOLUTION
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 ADMINISTRATION

Mr. John Harden
 Mr. Blackwell Robinson
 Mr. J. G. W. MacLamroc
 Mr. Sydney Cone, Jr.
 Mr. Sam Burford
 Mr. Frank Wood

February 12, 1976



Mr. George Bush

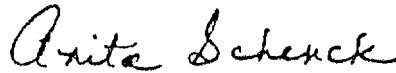
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noon. We might add that the North Carolina Bicentennial considers this commemoration of such importance that it has been designated one of the four major events in the state during 1976. (See enclosed brochure).

I am also enclosing, for your perusal, our Guilford County informational brochure. Our office stands ready to help in any way. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions you or your staff may have. We would very much appreciate your notifying us as to whether or not you and Mrs. Bush will be arriving on March 13th. If so, we will be happy to make arrangements for meals and lodging for that as well as Sunday night. Please advise us also regarding an honorarium and travel expense.

Cordially,



Mrs. James S. Schenck, III

ACS/bpv

cc: The Hon. L. Richardson Preyer
Mr. J. H. Froelich, Jr., Chairman, GC-ARBC



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JK
NOTE!

February 12, 1976

Mr. George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia 23665

Executive Registry
76-9671

Dear Mr. Bush:

The Guilford County (North Carolina) Bicentennial Commission was delighted to learn, through Representative L. Richardson Preyer, that you would be willing to be the principal speaker for our first major event of 1976, the Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The Commemoration ceremonies will be on Sunday, March 14th, at 3:00 P.M.

On behalf of the Commission, may I extend our grateful appreciation to you. We are looking forward to having both you and Mrs. Bush with us on this fine occasion.

Mrs. James Schenck, III, the Coordinator for the Guilford County Bicentennial, will send you pertinent information concerning the Commemoration and a bit of background on the Battle itself, to refresh your memory concerning it.

Most cordially,

J. H. Froelich, Jr.
J. H. Froelich, Jr., Chairman

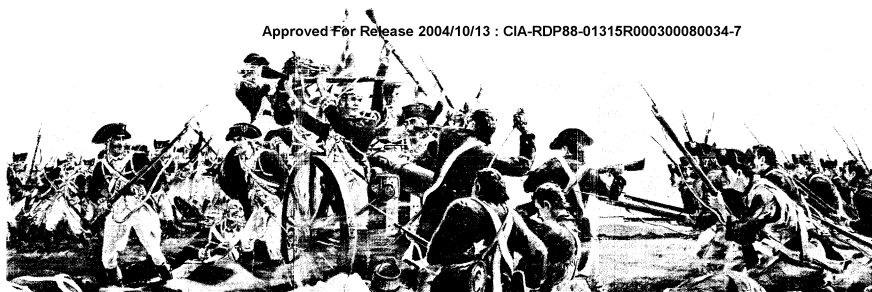
JHF/bpv

cc: The Hon. L. Richardson Preyer

Guilford Courthouse

NATIONAL MILITARY PARK • NORTH CAROLINA

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On March 15, 1781, Britain's Earl Cornwallis won a costly victory over Gen. Nathaniel Greene's American forces at Guilford Courthouse. So costly was this victory that the weakened British army soon marched off to Yorktown and final surrender.

In 1780, as the Revolution dragged into its fifth year, British troops seized Charleston. Already they occupied Savannah and much of Georgia. Now they would move into the Carolina interior, rally Loyalists to their standard, pacify the countryside, and then march into Virginia. Once they secured the southern colonies, the British could strike northward to crush the rebellion. From Charleston, Cornwallis' troops moved north to Guilford Courthouse, to find Green's forces awaiting them.

Stationing his American army in three separate lines, Greene ordered the first two—mostly

untrained North Carolina and Virginia militia—to fire on the battle-wise British army and fall back behind the trained regular Continental troops of the third and last line. Attacking this third line, the British drove off one American regiment. Then the veteran First Maryland mounted a bayonet charge, supported by Lt. Col. William Washington's cavalry. With the battle going against him, Cornwallis ordered his cannon to fire into the mixed American and British, thus halting the Continental counterattack.

The Americans withdrew, allowing the British to claim success. Yet the winner suffered so severely that Charles James Fox, a British statesman, declared, "Another such victory will ruin the British Army." Having lost a fourth of his army, Cornwallis withdrew to Wilmington, and from there went on to Yorktown and eventual surrender.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

In the visitor center, located at the site of the American Second Line, museum exhibits and an audiovisual program explain the battle. You can purchase a 40-page illustrated handbook about the Battle of Guilford Courthouse at the park, or from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402 for 25 cents.

Those who plan to visit in a group can receive special services by making advance arrangements with the superintendent.

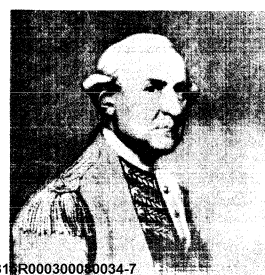
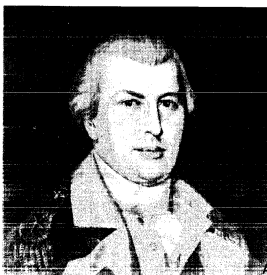
A 1/2-mile historical self-guiding walking trail leads from the visitor center to the American First Line area and to many of the monuments in the park. Several prominent historical figures are buried here, including William Hooper and John Penn, both North Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence.

ADMINISTRATION

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 9145, Plaza Station, Greensboro, N.C. 27408, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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